

European Law Institute



ELI PRESIDENT

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell

'As I assume the presidency of the European Law Institute (ELI), I do so with deep gratitude for all those who have shaped the organisation into a respected and authoritative voice in European and global legal development.

Approaching its 15th anniversary, ELI is uniquely placed to bridge legal traditions, promote dialogue, and respond to evolving challenges. I take on this role with a profound sense of legal and moral responsibility, to resist complacency, confront threats to democracy and human rights, and meet technological change with creativity and imagination, while advancing ELI's mission as a platform for principled, collaborative legal progress.

The future is not predetermined; we must imagine the possibilities and actively shape one that is just, equitable, and firmly grounded in the rule of law.'





The law in Europe has a profound impact on society. Any unnecessary uncertainty and complexity in the law attribute to fragmentation and ultimately to general dissatisfaction with the administration of justice.

As an independent, democratic, membership-based organisation, ELI aims at improving the quality of the law, supporting its development and contributing to its proper implementation both at national, European and International levels. Its very considerable intellectual resources focus on the law not as it is, but as it should be.

ELI was established in 2011. The idea for a European Law Institute was inspired by the activities of the American Law Institute (ALI), which was founded in 1923 and has since become a landmark institution in the American legal system. ELI

serves a similar purpose within the European legal context, focusing on European legal development in a global context. Like its American counterpart, ELI also aims to unite jurists of the highest standing from all branches and professions of the law.

At the heart of ELI's activities are its projects, which can be long-term endeavours or timely reactions to legislative developments.

Its activities span all branches of the law: substantive and procedural; private and public. In its quest for better law-making, the Institute strives to understand and bridge the oft-perceived tensions and gaps between the different legal cultures, between public and private law, as well as between scholarship and practice.

To accomplish its tasks, ELI operates on its own initiative. It is also, however, available for consultation by institutions involved in the development of law on a European, international or national level.

In furtherance of its commitment to the principles of comprehensiveness, the Institute canvasses insights and perspectives from as wide an audience as possible. ELI projects undergo extensive consultation both within ELI’s broad network of Members and externally. Among ELI’s 150 Institutional Members are the European Parliament, the Court of Justice of the European Union, the United Nations Commission on International Trade Law (UNCITRAL), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law (UNIDROIT), several supreme courts in Europe, law firms, law faculties and professional associations, including the Council of Bars and Law Societies of

Europe (CCBE), the Council of the Notariats of the European Union (CNEU), the European Network of Councils for the Judiciary (ENCJ) and the Network of the Presidents of the Supreme Judicial Courts of the European Union. Since its foundation, the Institute has also established close working relations with the ALI, the (US) Uniform Law Commission (ULC) and the Uniform Law Conference of Canada (ULCC).

The Institute’s Individual Members stem from the bar, bench, academia and other legal professions, reflecting the richness of the legal traditions, legal disciplines and vocational frameworks found throughout Europe.

ELI receives substantial support from the institutions of the European Union, the University of Vienna and the City of Vienna, where it is established.

1,800 Individual Members 180 Institutional Members





CONSTITUENT BODY

Membership

The Membership is regarded as the highest body of the Institute. The Membership consists of all the Institute’s Fellows and Observers. Its main functions are to elect Members of the Council and to approve the results of ELI projects. ELI’s Annual Conference is the primary forum at which the Membership discuss the Institute’s projects and subject them to thorough review.

GOVERNING BODY

Council

The Council consists of up to 56 Members, elected by the Membership from among the individual Fellows in a way that adequately takes into account the general principles of the Institute. In addition to elected Council Members, the President, the two Vice-Presidents and the Treasurer become ex-officio Members of the Council from the moment they take office. Further, up to 10 Members can be offered ex-officio seats on the Council. As the Institute’s governing body, its tasks extend to the election of the Executive Committee, the approval of the accounts and the budget and the appointment of ELI’s auditor. The Council, which meets at least four times a year, is also the responsible governance organ for the adoption and implementation of projects.

ADMINISTRATIVE BODY

Executive Committee

The Executive is ELI’s administrative body, consisting of the President, two Vice-Presidents, Treasurer and three innominate members. The Executive represents ELI and is charged with its general administration as well as the implementation of decisions made by competent bodies of the Institute. The Executive meets several times a year.

CONSULTATIVE BODY

Senate and Arbitral Tribunal

The Senate is a body of persons, each of whom has an outstanding reputation, ready to give advice. It consists of up to 21 ELI Fellows. Three members of the Senate form ELI’s Arbitral Tribunal, which settles any disputes that may arise. The Senate meets at least once a year. Prof Dr Reinhard Zimmermann serves as the ELI Senate Speaker.

PRESIDENT OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Roberta Metsola

‘ELI is an invaluable organisation that the European Parliament can rely on to attend to justice-related issues now, and in the future.

[ELI ‘s] achievements have paved the way for many more young professionals to help create a righteous, green and prosperous European future.’





Individual
Members

Reputable natural persons that actively engage, through their professional, vocational or scholarly activities, or take an active interest, in European legal development.

Institutional Members

Legal entities representing organisations, institutions or networks, which are actively involved in European legal development.

Fellows

Individual or Institutional Members with voting rights.

Observers

Individual or Institutional Members that cannot undertake to act without regard to the interests of particular stakeholders. Observers have no voting rights.

Sustaining
Members

Individual Members that support ELI through additional Membership fees, affording ELI a dependable safety net and enabling it to embark on new initiatives that further its causes.

	Institutional Members	Sustaining Members	Individual Members
Name displayed on ELI website			
Biography on the ELI website			
Free entrance to the ELI Annual Conference			
Networking breakfast/dinner at ELI Annual Conference			
Influence ELI's governance activities			
Influence ELI's project portfolio			
Access to ELI approved project outputs			
Run for position in ELI's Council and Executive			
Hub and SIG Membership and Leadership			
30% discount on the UK recommended retail price of ELI's publications with Oxford University Press			
20% discount on Oxford University Press Publications			
25% discount on conferences hosted by the Academy of European Law in Tier			
ELI Newsletter subscription			

Members' Directory

- [Full list of Individual Members](#)
- [Full list of Institutional](#)



FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT
Sir Geoffrey Vos
Master of the Rolls and Head of Civil Justice in England and Wales

PRESIDENT
Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell
Full Professor at the Faculty of Law, Charles III University of Madrid, Spain

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Pietro Sirena
Dean and Professor, Bocconi University

Join the Voice of the European Legal Community

Not a Member? ELI [welcomes](#) applications from accomplished jurists.

EUROPEAN COMMISSIONER FOR DEMOCRACY, JUSTICE,
THE RULE OF LAW AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Michael McGrath

‘I welcome the valuable role played by the European Law Institute in contributing to discussions on the future of justice and company law in the EU. ... ELI provides a platform for thoughtful reflection and expert input.’

‘Promoting and upholding the rule of law and judicial independence will always be a collective responsibility. Standards on judicial independence, such as those prepared by the European Law Institute, provide an important contribution in that respect.

Such standards contribute to a better understanding of the concept of judicial independence and help build and further strengthen a genuine rule of law culture. So, allow me ... to thank [ELI’s] work in strengthening that rule of law culture.’



The hallmark of an ELI project is collaborative drafting by intellectually and geographically diverse practitioners, judges, scholars and other legal professionals. Projects are reviewed and revised in line with the deliberative processes established by the Institute and ultimately approved both by its Council and Membership as a whole, thus reflecting the voice of all components of the legal profession on what the law ought to be in a given field.

ELI’s Executive Committee, supported by its Scientific Director, is responsible for the identification of projects. Ideas for projects

are canvassed from Members, experts and key stakeholders in the field. Projects in ELI’s portfolio are subsumed under three umbrella topics:

- Rule of Law and the Convergence of Legal Systems
- Law and Governance for the Digital Age
- Climate Justice, Environmental Law Challenges and Sustainability

The selection, management and approval of ELI projects are regulated by ELI’s Project Guidelines.

Serve Society

ELI projects seek to improve the law or facilitate its application for the benefit of society in Europe.

Practical

They are of immediate practical utility to legislative bodies, judiciaries or other interested parties.

Pan-European

They adopt a genuinely pan-European perspective, which takes due account of Europe’s diverse legal traditions.



Project Types

- Draft legislative proposals
- Model laws, model rules or statements of principles
- Checklists, other practical guidance

Key Constituents

- Reporters
- Project Team
- Advisory Committee
- Members Consultative Committee
- Observers

Duration

Due to the deliberative nature of ELI’s work, it usually takes at least two years to complete a project. However, where rapid reaction calls for it, the process can be accelerated.

Accessibility

ELI reports are freely downloadable and, depending on their nature, may be available to order with background materials from Oxford University Press and other publishing houses. Translations are also available in some cases.

Other Initiatives

In addition to projects, ELI embarks on a broad range of other initiatives, such as Innovation Papers and responses to consultations issued by the European Commission.



1.
Identification

- Executive Committee
- High Level Expert Groups
- Stakeholders
- Members

2.
Proposal Development

- Executive Committee
- Council
- Project Initiators
- Stakeholders

3.
Adoption

- Council

4.
Execution

- Reporters
- Project Team
- Advisory Committee
- Members Consultative Committee

5.
Consultation

- Executive Committee
- Observers
- Other Stakeholders
- Council
- Membership

6.
Approval

- Council
- Membership

7.
Dissemination

- Publication
- Conference
- High Level Forum

PRESIDENT OF THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION

Koen
Lenaerts

‘ELI has already established itself as a leading independent organisation whose scholarly work contributes to clarifying, modernising and otherwise improving European law, understood in a broad sense ... Most importantly, ELI gives new impetus to the comparative law method in the 21st century, a method of interpretation that enhances the legitimacy of the EU by interlocking European and national legal orders.’



AUSTRIAN PRESIDENT

Alexander Van der Bellen

‘ELI is characterised by the diversity of its Members and its work-scope. It is quite unusual that its Members consist of experts on the one hand as well as institutions like supreme courts, universities and law firms on the other. Its work programme is marked by a broad spectrum of topics and, above all, contains projects aiming at the development of the European legal order. Austria is proud to have been chosen as the seat of the ELI at the University of Vienna.’



Rule of Law and the Convergence of Legal Systems in the 21st Century

- ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence
- Extra-Judicial Administration of Justice in Cross-Border Family and Succession Matters
- Third Party Funding of Litigation
- Update of ELI’s Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants and the Rule of Law: Checklists and European Standards
- Corporate Criminal Liability in the European Union
- Enhancing Child Protection: Private International Law on Filiation and the European Commission’s Proposal COM/2022/695 final

Law and Governance for the Digital Age

- Access to Digital Assets
- Guiding Principles and Model Rules on Algorithmic Contracts
- Digitalisation of Civil Justice Systems in Europe
- Model Rules on Succession of Digital Assets, Data and other Digital Remains
- GPAI Project on Cogenerated Data

Climate Justice and Sustainable Societies

- Climate Justice – New Challenges for Law and Judges
- Advance Choices for Future Disablement
- Enterprise Foundations in Europe



Rule of Law and the Convergence of Legal Systems

- ELI Principles on the Extra-Judicial Administration of Justice in Cross-Border Family and Succession Matters (2025)
- ELI-Mount Scopus European Standards of Judicial Independence (2024)
- ELI Principles Governing the Third Party Funding of Litigation (2024)
- ELI Charter of Fundamental Constitutional Principles of a European Democracy (2024)
- ELI Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and the Council on Mutual Admissibility of Evidence and Electronic Evidence in Criminal Proceedings (2023)
- ELI Report on Freedom of Expression as a Common Constitutional Tradition in Europe (2022)
- ELI Study For a European Approach to R&D Tax Incentive(s) (2021)
- ELI-UNIDROIT Model European Rules of Civil Procedure (2021)
- ELI Report on Empowering European Families: Towards More Party Autonomy in European Family and Succession Law (2019)
- ELI-ENCJ Report On The Relationship Between Formal and Informal Justice: the Courts and Alternative Dispute Resolution (2018)
- ELI Instrument on Rescue of Business in Insolvency Law (2017)
- ELI Statement on Detention of Asylum Seekers and Irregular Migrants and the Rule of Law: Checklists and European Standards (2017)
- ELI Report on Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts of Jurisdiction in Criminal Matters in the European Union (2017)

Law and Governance for the Digital Age

- ELI Principles and Guidance for Enforcement Against Digital Assets (2025)
- Guiding Principles and Model Rules on Digital Assistants for Consumer Contracts (2025)
- GPAI Principles on Co-generated Data (2024)
- ELI Interim Report on EU Consumer Law and Automated Decision-Making: Is EU Consumer Law Ready for ADM? (2023)
- ELI Guiding Principles on Implementing Workers’ Right to Disconnect (2023)
- ELI Principles on Blockchain Technology, Smart Contracts and Consumer Protection (2023)
- ELI Draft of a Revised Product Liability Directive (2022)
- ELI Principles on the Use of Digital Assets as Security (2022)
- ELI Model Rules on Impact Assessment of Algorithmic Decision-Making Systems Used by Public Administration (2022)
- ALI-ELI Principles for a Data Economy: Data Transactions and Data Rights (2021)
- ELI Model Rules on Online Platforms (2020)
- ELI Statement of the European Law Institute on the European Commission’s Proposed Directive on the Supply of Digital Content to Consumers (2016)

Climate Justice and Sustainable Societies

- ELI Report on Ecocide (2023)
- ELI Guidance on Company Capital and Financial Accounting for Corporate Sustainability (2023)
- ELI-FRA Report on Business and Human Rights Access to Justice and Effective Remedies (2022)
- ELI Report on the Protection of Adults in International Situations (2020)

ELI's works are used in a variety of ways by the judiciary, legal practitioners, legislators at EU and national level as well as other lawmakers, academics, government administrators and private entities.

As soon as a project is adopted, dissemination activities commence. Kick-Off Webinars were launched in 2023 to bring ELI's projects to the legal public's attention and to canvass insights on scope. Importantly, they offer an opportunity for ELI's Members to gain a better understanding of projects and to shape them, among other things, by joining Membership Consultative Committees.

The end of a project marks its entry into the public domain. Extensive

efforts are made to ensure that reports are circulated broadly. Among other things, on a project's completion, press releases are sent to leading newspapers. Ministries of Justice (and other relevant ministries) across Europe are informed of the report's availability as is the European Commission and key experts and stakeholders in the field. In addition, project completion webinars/conferences are held.

High Level Fora, which bring high-ranking EU representatives, Ministers of Justice from across Europe and key stakeholders together to engage in discourse on the implementation of ELI's recommendations, are also convened for selected projects.



AUSTRIAN MINISTER OF JUSTICE

Dr Alma
Zadić, LLM



‘By fostering a vibrant and vigorous European legal community and cross-border cooperation, ELI has contributed substantially, not only to working with national governments and European institutions, but also to upholding the rule of law. Therefore, Austria is proud to be the home of the ELI Secretariat and to host these important legal discussions.’

DIRECTOR OF JUSTICE POLICIES, DG JUST

Richard
Sonnenschein



‘ELI and the European Commission have been partners for years. Our fruitful partnership materialised in many valuable projects, which I firmly believe provide great assistance to legal practitioners throughout Europe. ELI's projects constitute an essential source of information for the Commission's forward-looking initiatives and have always been a source of inspiration and a point of reference for the Commission.’

UNCITRAL SECRETARY

Anna
Joubin-Bret



‘UNCITRAL takes great interest in the valuable work of ELI. This is not just because of the high regard that we have for its processes and products, or the respect that we share for diverse legal traditions, but principally because many of ELI's current projects speak to UNCITRAL's mandate to promote the progressive harmonization and unification of the law of international trade.’

ELI receives funding from its Members’ fees, the European Union, and the University of Vienna, which also serves as the host for its Secretariat.

The Secretariat is responsible for assisting ELI’s governing bodies, project teams, and related committees. Its tasks encompass various activities, such as drafting regulatory frameworks, ensuring compliance, managing Membership, budget planning and monitoring, fundraising, project management, event coordination, and public relations work. The Secretary General, Dr Vanessa Wilcox, leads the Secretariat.

ELI’s Annual Conference and Meetings is the principal means through which the fifth aim set out in Article 3 of its Statute, namely to provide a forum for discussion and cooperation of jurists from the bar, bench, and academia that take an active interest in European legal development and together represent a broad range of legal traditions, is achieved. The ELI Annual Conference takes place in autumn every year.

In addition to featuring a series of panels on ELI projects, welcome addresses and keynote speeches are delivered by distinguished personalities.

The broad Membership also gathers in the context of ELI Members’ Day, which is celebrated annually online on or around ELI’s anniversary.

Venues

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| ■ 2026 Paris, France | ■ 2018 Riga, Latvia |
| ■ 2025 Vienna, Austria | ■ 2017 Vienna, Austria |
| ■ 2024 Dublin, Ireland | ■ 2016 Ferrara, Italy |
| ■ 2023 Vienna, Austria | ■ 2015 Vienna, Austria |
| ■ 2022 Madrid, Spain | ■ 2014 Zagreb, Croatia |
| ■ 2021 Online | ■ 2013 Vienna, Austria |
| ■ 2020 Online | ■ 2012 Brussels Belgium |
| ■ 2019 Vienna, Austria | ■ 2011 Vienna, Austria |

Keynotes:



DIRECTOR, EUROPEAN UNION AGENCY
FOR FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS
Sirpa Rautio (2025)

PRESIDENT, EUROPEAN COURT
Marko Bošnjak (2024)

UNCITRAL SECRETARY GENERAL
Anna Joubin-Bret (2019)

COE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION
Michael O’Flaherty (2017)



Hubs and SIGs (Special Interest Groups) are a practical means through which ELI Members can meet closer to home, communicate in their native language, discuss current or upcoming projects, and generate ideas for future ELI activities. As such, Hubs and SIGs are of fundamental importance to ELI’s success.

Hubs and SIGs are country- and topic-specific groups respectively. In consultation with its Executive Committee, ELI relies on SIGs to prepare responses to any EU or other

relevant consultation or legislative proposal; provide an effective means to review any legal instruments within their area of expertise; and, most importantly, provide an active forum for debate by ELI Members in the field.

Hub and SIG Membership is limited to ELI Members. However, their activities may be open to the public.

At present, ELI has **19 Hubs** and **12 SIGs** and constantly adds to these numbers in line with demand.

ELI SIGs	ELI Hubs
Administrative Law SIG	Austrian Hub
Business and Financial Law SIG	Baltic Hub
Competition Law SIG	Belgio-Luxembourg Hub
Digital Law SIG	Croatian Hub
Dispute Resolution SIG	French Hub
Family and Succession Law SIG	German Hub
Fundamental Rights Law SIG	Hungarian Hub
Gender Equality SIG	Irish Hub
Global Private Law SIG	Italian Hub
Insurance Law SIG	Nordic Hub
Intellectual Property Law SIG	Polish Hub
Sustainability and Environmental Law SIG	Portuguese Hub
	Serbian Hub
	Slovenian Hub
	Spanish Hub
	Turkish Hub
	Ukrainian Hub
	United Kingdom Hub



60+ Jurisdictions Represented

19 Hubs

12 Special Interest Groups

Young Lawyers Award



ELI's Young Lawyers Award aims at providing the young legal community in Europe with a mechanism to propose practical suggestions for the improvement of European law, as a way of giving a voice to future European legal experts and to helping ELI in fulfilling its core mission of improving the quality of European law.



Applicants must be currently undertaking a university law degree, whether undergraduate or postgraduate or be within five years of being awarded a law degree on the date by which entries must be submitted.



Candidates must submit a unique and original paper which was not previously published and deals with a European legal issue that could be improved. The contribution must be submitted in English.



Papers for ELI's Young Lawyers Award have to be submitted by **30 April** each year.

Giving Voice to Young Lawyers



- Extract of paper published in ELI Newsletter and on ELI website
- Best efforts to publish paper in UNIDROIT's Uniform Law Review, an Oxford University Press Journal
- Presentation of the paper at the ELI Annual Conference (expenses covered)
- EUR 750 cash
- 5-year ELI Membership
- Up to 3 months paid internship at a law firm affiliated with Interleges



The Jury of the ELI Young Lawyers Award is drawn from ELI and other participating institutions. It is selected by the ELI Executive Committee every two years.

• Interleges has been the proud sponsor of the Award since 2018.

European Law Institute

- Pan-European, democratic, membership-based organisation
- Uniting prominent jurists of all legal professions
- Aiming to improve the law in Europe
- Carrying out projects with immediate practical application

Members of ELI can contribute to its projects and gain access to an international network of jurists. Apart from other activities, ELI organises its Annual Conference and Meetings, bringing together Europe's leading experts in diverse fields of law.

Executive Committee

President:
First Vice-President:
Second Vice-President:
Treasurer:
Other members:

Teresa Rodríguez de las Heras Ballell
Sir Geoffrey Vos
Pietro Sirena
Anne Birgitte Gammeljord
Sylvaine Poillot-Peruzzetto
Başak Başoğlu
Marta Santos Silva

ELI in Vienna

The Secretariat of ELI, which is hosted by the University of Vienna, is located in the heart of the Austrian capital, close to the main building of the University, the representation of the European Commission in Austria as well as the information office of the European Parliament. We cordially invite you to visit us whenever you are in Vienna.



ELI Secretariat

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